

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165005

FOR MATLOCK FROM SHINN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO HAVE SOME OF THE BASIC UP-TO-DATE SOVIET LEGAL REFERENCES. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE PPO COULD PICK UP COPIES OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE, THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES, THE CIVIL CODE AND THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. CURRENT TEXTBOOKS ON CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAW, AS WELL AS ANNOTATIONS OF THE CODES, WOULD ALSO BE MOST WELCOME.

2. FYI, SECDEF BROWN HAS DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD ON A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH THE SOVIETS. YOU WILL SOON BE RECEIVING THE GO-AHEAD ON THE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER EXCHANGE. ON OTHER ISSUES, AN INVITATION FROM GENERAL JONES TO OGARKOV IS TO BE HELD OFF FOR THE TIME BEING, TO AVOID UNDERCUTTING THE AMBASSADOR AND SENDING A
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MISLEADING SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS IN VIEW OF CURRENT PROBLEMS. LATER THIS YEAR WE ARE TO PROPOSE RECIPROCAL SHIP VISITS FOR 1979, AND WE WILL TRY ANOTHER LOW-KEY APPROACH ON THE WAR COLLEGE VISIT FOR NEXT YEAR. SECDEF ALSO APPROVED CINCUSAREUR'S ACCEPTANCE, IF PROFFERED, OF AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE CINC OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN GERMANY.

3. DAO SHIPMENT: YOU WILL BE GETTING MESSAGE ON LUERS' MEETING WITH DCM VASEV TODAY ON CUSTOMS CLEARANCE OF THE DAO SHIPMENT. WE ARE CHECKING WITH CUSTOMS ON POSSIBLE RETALIATORY MEASURES HERE, BUT EMBASSY IS AWARE OF PROBLEMS WE HAVE HAD WITH CUSTOMS IN THIS REGARD IN PAST. IN ADDITION WE STILL HAVE CONCERNS REGARDING SECOND SHIPMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMING BACK IN THE ROGER CHANNEL ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS: IF WE GO AHEAD WITH THE AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE AND VISA PROCESSING FOR THE JULY 10 SHIPMENT, WON'T THIS TIP OUR HAND AND RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRESENT SHIPMENT WILL NOT GET CLEARED AND THE SECOND MIGHT BE STOPPED AT THE BORDER? WOULD IT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL WE HAVE ESTABLISHED PRECEDENT, RECONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE NOTWITHSTANDING, THEN PROCESS FOR SECOND SHIPMENT? IF WE SENT TWO CONTAINERS IN JULY, THEY PASS THROUGH THE BORDER AND WE THEN HAVE FOUR UNCLEARED CONTAINERS IN THE COURTYARD WHAT WOULD BE THE RAMIFICATIONS IF WE WENT AHEAD AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME AND OPENED THEM WITHOUT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE? PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.

4. FOR GROSS: REF MOSCOW 14888, MENDELSON AND BELOTE PLAN TO ARRIVE JULY 11. THEY STILL HOPE TO GO TO RIGA BUT THERE ARE SOME COMPLICATIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE EMPOWERED TO DO BY THE US COURTS. AN EXPLANATORY FRONT CHANNEL CABLE WILL FOLLOW SOON.
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5. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN NEWS REPORTS OF WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT JUNE 27 THAT 14-MEMBER DELEGATION LED BY FRANK PRESS WILL VISIT THE PRC FROM JULY 6 TO 10. TALKS WILL ESTABLISH OFFICIAL S&T CONTACTS AND INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF BILATERAL EXCHANGES. USDEL INCLUDES BARUCH AND ATKINSON (OF S&T JOINT COMMISSION) AS WELL AS HEADS OF NASA, NIH AND USGS. THERE WILL NOT BE ANYONE FROM DOD ON THE DELEGATION, NY TIMES FRONT PAGE ARTICLE JUNE 28 FOLDED IN "CHINA CARD" ANGLE BUT DID NOT MENTION FORTHCOMING TRAVEL TO USSR. TRIP TO USSR HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED-- WE ARE NOW DISCUSSING CONTENT AND TIMING OF A PRESS RELEASE WILL OSTEP.

6. RE NEWSMEN, FEELING HERE IS MOUNTING, WITH WESTWING SESSION TOMORROW THAT STRONG MEASURES MAY BE JUSTIFIED. WE IN SOV THINK THE SOVIET MOVE IS A SERIOUS, CALCULATED STEP TO INTIMIDATE, AND REQUIRES A SOLID PUNCH. VANCE

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